

TOWN OF PORTLAND

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 2

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE ROUTING AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROPOSED BELL CENTER-COLUMBIA-SUGAR CREEK-ILLINOIS/WISCONSIN STATE LINE (BECI) 765-kV COMPETITIVE TRANSMISSION PROJECT THROUGH THE TOWN OF PORTLAND, DODGE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

WHEREAS, the Town of Portland, Dodge County, Wisconsin is a predominantly rural and agricultural community characterized by productive farmland, family farms, rural residences, wetlands, woodlands, open space, and natural resources that contribute substantially to the Town's economy, environment, rural character, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO) has approved the Bell Center-Columbia-Sugar Creek-Illinois/Wisconsin State Line 765-kV Competitive Transmission Project (BECI) as part of its Long-Range Transmission Planning portfolio, and Midcontinent Grid Solutions has been selected to develop the project; and

WHEREAS, the BECI Project is proposed to consist of approximately 190 miles of new single-circuit 765-kV transmission facilities extending across Wisconsin to an interconnection at the Illinois/Wisconsin state line, and a final transmission-line route has not yet been selected; and

WHEREAS, the proposed BECI 765-kV transmission project is intended to serve regional transmission needs and would provide little or no direct benefit to the residents, farms, businesses, or taxpayers of the Town of Portland while imposing significant local burdens; and

WHEREAS, construction of a new 765-kV transmission corridor through the Town could require substantial rights-of-way, clearing of vegetation, installation of large transmission structures, construction access, and permanent restrictions on the use, enjoyment, and development of affected private property; and

WHEREAS, such a corridor could reduce property values, fragment productive farmland, interfere with farming practices and drainage systems, compact soils, cause crop losses, restrict agricultural operations, and reduce the productivity and long-term agricultural value of farmland; and

WHEREAS, the proposed corridor could affect wetlands, woodlands, waterways, wildlife habitat, environmental corridors, and other natural resources while permanently altering the Town's rural landscape, agricultural heritage, open space, scenic character, and residential quality; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board finds that potential losses in property value, agricultural productivity, local economic development, tax-base stability, and the use and enjoyment of private property and local natural resources would result in an overall negative impact on the Town's residents, economy, revenues, resources, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, because a final route has not yet been selected, the Town Board believes that concerns expressed by affected municipalities and landowners should receive meaningful consideration during the route-development process, including consideration of alternatives that avoid the Town of Portland and minimize impacts to existing homes, farmsteads, productive agricultural operations, private property, and environmentally sensitive areas; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board believes transmission planning and routing decisions should fully evaluate alternatives that avoid or minimize impacts on established rural communities, productive agricultural lands, residences, environmentally sensitive areas, and private property, with meaningful participation by affected municipalities and landowners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Portland, Dodge County, Wisconsin, formally and unequivocally opposes the routing and construction of the proposed BECI 765-kV high-voltage transmission line through the Town of Portland, finding that the project would provide little or no direct benefit to Portland residents while placing disproportionate burdens upon the Town through potential reductions in property values, loss or fragmentation of productive farmland, impacts upon agricultural operations, restrictions on private property, disruption of the rural landscape, and negative effects upon the Town's local economy, tax base, natural resources, and quality of life. The Town Board further urges Midcontinent Grid Solutions, MISO, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, and all other agencies and entities involved in the planning and approval of the project to select a route that avoids the Town of Portland and minimizes impacts upon existing homes and farmsteads, agricultural lands, rural residences, private property, environmentally sensitive areas, and local economic resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board requests that the Town of Portland's opposition and the concerns of its residents and landowners be included in the project record and given meaningful consideration during all remaining route-development, review, and regulatory processes.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that nothing in this Resolution is intended to conflict with or supersede any applicable state or federal law or the lawful jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin or any other governmental agency. The Town Clerk is authorized and directed to transmit this Resolution to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, Midcontinent Grid Solutions, MISO, Dodge County, the Town's state and federal representatives, the Governor of Wisconsin, and other appropriate officials and agencies.

Submitted to the Town Board for consideration this 29th day of August, 2026.

Adopted this 2nd day of September, 2026.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD

By: Jeff C. Spahr
Town Chair

By: [Signature]
Supervisor

By: Cham M. Cur
Supervisor

By: Nancy Thompson
Town Clerk